

CHEREE PETERSON BIO

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MAY 8, 2023. SHE HAS SERVED AS BOTH THE REGIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTOR AND THE REGIONAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR FOR THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE) SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION, HEADQUARTERED IN SAN FRANCISCO, WHICH ENCOMPASSES CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO, UTAH, AND PARTS OF FIVE OTHER STATES. SHE HAS EXTENSIVE SENIOR-LEVEL EXPERIENCE IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS WITHIN MUCH OF THE EPA REGION 9 FOOTPRINT, WHICH INCLUDES WORKING WITH THE PUBLIC AND COMMUNITIES, STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES, TRIBES, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFF.

CHEREE HAS OVER 26 YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE, INCLUDING A SIGNIFICANT TOUR WITH THE U.S. OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB), AND A LEGISLATIVE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE. SHE HAS BEEN IN THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE FOR ALMOST SEVEN YEARS AND HAS A DEPTH AND BREADTH OF EXPERIENCE MANAGING AND DIRECTING A LARGE, INTERDISCIPLINARY ORGANIZATION - DELIVERING PROGRAMS GOVERNED BY ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER STATUTES. HER DEIAB LEADERSHIP AT THE USACE IS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, RESULTING IN A SIGNIFICANTLY MORE DIVERSE ORGANIZATION. HER ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY EXPERIENCE INCLUDES IMPLEMENTING A \$10 BILLION PROGRAM THAT INCLUDED ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND THE CLEAN WATER ACT 404 WETLANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM. CHEREE WAS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SENIOR-LEVEL TECHNICAL STAFF OVERSEEING 2,000 SUBORDINATE TECHNICAL STAFF, INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNERS, PROGRAM MANAGERS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON WITH HER MASTER'S DEGREE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND HER BACHELOR'S IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA, CHEREE BEGAN HER CAREER AT OMB. SHE OVERSAW THE THEN \$4 BILLION USACE ACCOUNTS AND SPECIALIZED IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, THE EVERGLADES, RIVERS AND HARBORS MAINTENANCE, AND THE REGULATORY PROGRAM. AFTER A FELLOWSHIP WITH THE SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE, WATER RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE IN 1998, CHEREE MOVED TO THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION, WHERE SHE BUILT PARTNERSHIPS WITH VARIOUS FEDERAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE USACE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. CHEREE ALSO SPENT MORE THAN A YEAR IN THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE BUDGET OFFICE, WRITING BUDGET NARRATIVE AND OVERSEEING THE SERVICE'S LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM.